

are absolutely necessary to gain you the esteem and admiration of mankind, politeness and good-breeding are equally necessary to make you welcome and agreeable in conversation and common life. Great talents, such as honor, virtue, learning, and parts, are above the generality of the world; who neither possess them themselves, nor judge of them rightly in others; but all people are judges of the lesser talents such as civility, affability, and an obliging agreeable address and manner; because they feel the good effects of them, as making society easy and pleasing. Good-sense, must in many cases, determine good-breeding....the perfection of good-breeding is, to be civil with ease and in a gentleman-like manner."¹

There was, in young Stanhope, another grievous fault which provoked much advice and admonition from Chesterfield. That was his manner of speech; this was hesitant and indistinct. In one letter he writes, "One must be extremely exact, clear, and perspicuous, in everything one says, otherwise, instead of entertaining, or informing others, one only tries and puzzles them. The voice and manner of speaking, too, are not to be neglected;"² and in his next letter he continues the subject, "Every man, if he please, may choose good words instead of bad ones, may speak properly instead of improperly, may be clear and perspicuous in his recitals, instead of dark and muddy; may have grace instead of awkwardness in his motions and gestures; and in short may be

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 63 f, Letter LXIX.
2. op. cit., p 70 ff, Letter LXXV and LXXVI.